

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY319829
Inspection date	16/06/2009
Inspector	Julie Larner
Type of setting	Childminder

Introduction

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of the registered early years provision. 'Early years provision' refers to provision regulated by Ofsted for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday (the early years age group). The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and welfare, known as the *Early Years Foundation Stage*.

The provider must provide a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must provide a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Childcare (Inspection) Regulations 2008 regulations 9 and 10).

The setting also makes provision for children older than the early years age group which is registered on the voluntary and/or compulsory part(s) of the Childcare Register. This report does not include an evaluation of that provision, but a comment about compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register is included in Annex B.

Description of the childminding

The childminder was registered in 2005. She lives with her husband and 3 children aged 15, 5 and 2 years old. They live close to the centre of North Shields. Children have access to the whole of the premises except for the childminder's bedroom on the first floor. There is an enclosed garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for four children under eight years when she works alone. She also works with another registered childminder. She is registered on the early years register and both the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder currently has five children on roll, all of whom attend on a part-time basis. Three of these children are in the early years age range. The childminder currently collects and drops children off at two local primary schools. The family have three cats, one budgie and one rabbit.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA) and has completed the Diploma in Home based Childcare.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory. Children remain safe, secure and settled in the childminder's care. She is beginning to gain a grasp of the areas of learning linked to the learning and development requirements. Most of the relevant paperwork is sufficient, in place and available for inspection. The childminder provides a fair range of toys and equipment, which are appropriately stored to enable children to make choices and that they enjoy using, however, natural materials are limited. Children are encouraged to be healthy through various successful activities and routines, however, some procedures do not successfully prevent cross-infection.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- ensure risk assessments cover anything with which a child may come into contact
- extend and develop her knowledge of the areas of learning
- ensure that indoor and outdoor spaces are planned to provide an appropriate range of activities, for example, opportunities for children to use natural materials
- ensure that children's good health is continually promoted, for example, by remaining vigilant to ensure that children do not share cups.

To fully meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- ensure that all records relating to childminding activities are readily accessible and available for

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inspection at all times (Documentation).

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder provides a mixture of home based activities and outings that children enjoy. She works closely with another registered childminder to make the best use of space and resources, for example, as they go to the other childminder's house to make use of the large garden for outdoor play. Children move freely and safely around the premises and the childminder ensures they are safe in the setting by providing adequate safety equipment, such as booster seats, which younger children are strapped into at snack time. Although a risk assessment has been conducted for some areas of the house this does not fully include all areas that children use. The childminder is adequately vigilant to ensure that she can prevent accidents and minimise risks, for example, by taking pegs, that children have picked up in the garden, off them, however, children do manage to access each others drinks which means cross-infection is not sufficiently minimised.

Written policies and procedures shows the childminder provides a consistent standard of care and is able to use these to inform parents about how her service operates. Daily discussions with parents provides time for the childminder to find out about the children's individual needs. She is beginning to develop some links with others providing the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) for the children; however, these are mainly reliant on the information that parents pass on to her.

The childminder completes further training which contributes to safeguarding the children's welfare, such as first aid and child protection. Documentation is clearly organised and contains records that are required to contribute towards protecting the children's well-being, however, not all of the relevant documentation that is needed for inspection is readily available. This means a requirement has not been fully met.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder is beginning to develop a grasp of the EYFS and learning and development requirements. Some basic observations show the childminder has considered what children can do and identified the next steps in their learning, however, these are not fully considered in future planning to ensure children can make further progress. Children receive praise and encouragement from the childminder for their efforts, for example, when they say new words. The childminder provides the children with a positive role model as she thanks them for passing their plates over after they have finished their snack; however, some opportunities to discuss good behaviour are missed when children have disagreements. The childminder uses some appropriate strategies to encourage good behaviour. She distracts younger children with items that she knows they like.

The childminder knows the children well. She knows about their interests and likes and about the younger children's development, such as their enjoyment of throwing balls and toys. Children benefit from indoor and outdoor play as the childminder listens to and values their requests. This provides children with regular opportunities to be in the fresh air and be physically active. Good procedures ensures that children learn about personal hygiene as they wipes their hands before eating foods and are sensitively reminded about this after they use the toilet. Children enjoy healthy snacks. They eagerly tuck into chopped strawberries, grapes and bananas. Children are encouraged to behave safely when they are in the local community. The childminder makes sure that children hold onto the pram or hold hands which contributes towards them remaining safe. Regular fire drills ensure that children learn about fire safety effectively.

Children move confidently around their environment. All children, even the youngest, make choices about what they want to play with due to low-level storage. Children enjoy the toys and equipment that is available for them, however, there is a lack of natural play materials to encourage young children to explore with their senses. Young children repeatedly play with their favourite toys, such as noisy hammers and the childminder supports them well by showing them how certain toys work. Children's individual needs are consistently met. The childminder changes children's wet clothes after they have been out in the garden and picks them up when they rush to her legs for reassurance. The childminder plans activities and experiences to encourage children's creativity. She ensures that all children are included at the table as they draw. She effectively supports the younger children and helps them to learn how to use the crayons.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Grade 1 is Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Grade 2 is Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Grade 3 is Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Grade 4 is Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

Overall effectiveness

How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	3

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	3
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	3
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	3

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	3
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

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Annex B: the Childcare Register

The provider confirms that the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
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The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
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